

character of the latter, and the method of its construction. In its earliest stages it is a transparent, smooth, and homogeneous slime-like excretion, within which the worm may be very clearly seen, as it works its way forward or drags itself backward by means of its podal hooks and spines. Later on, the anterior extremity thickens and becomes more and more opaque, and, as Dr. Leidy has observed, "feebly annulated," presumably from the adherence of effete particles, and their compression by the repeated withdrawal of the ciliated tentacles into the mouth of the tube. This method of prolongation must continue during the residence of the worm, and in consequence, if supported, it may sometimes reach a length which is several times that of its inhabitant.

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JANUARY 29.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-three persons present.

*Fossil Bones from Louisiana.*—Prof. LEIDY directed attention to a collection of fossil bones, which have been submitted to his examination by the Smithsonian Institution. They were obtained by Mr. William Crooks, at the mine of the American Salt Company, near New Iberia, La. They chiefly consist of remains of *Mastodon americanus*, of *Equus major*, of *Equus*, not distinguishable from those of the domestic horse, and of *Myiodon harlani*. Of *Mastodon* the collection contained well preserved molar teeth, and characteristic fragments of bones. Of the *Equus major*, there are vertebræ, fragments of long bones, and a number of teeth. The molars are characterized by their comparatively large size and complexity of arrangement in the enamel folding, especially of the upper molars. Of *Myiodon* there are several molar teeth, vertebræ and other bones, mostly fragments. Among the bones are two mature and well-preserved tibiæ, the best specimens yet discovered of the species. They are identical in form and size with those of *M. robustus*; indicating *M. harlani* to have been a species of the same size as the former. The extreme length of the tibia internally is nine inches; breadth across the head, seven inches; across the distal extremity, five and one-half inches. Further collections were anticipated from the same locality.

*Foraminifera in the Drift of Minnesota.*—Prof. LEIDY stated that he had recently received for examination, from Mr. B. W. Thomas, of Chicago, several glass slips with mounted specimens of sand. These were obtained by washing clay from the boulder drift of Meeker Co., Minnesota. In the specimens, Prof. Leidy

recognized some well-preserved and characteristic foraminifera, of which two forms appeared identical with *Textularia globulosa* and *Rotalia globulosa*, now living in the Atlantic Ocean. The fossils Mr. Thomas supposes to be derived from a soft yellow rock, cretaceous shale and lignite, forming part of the drift. He also reports the finding of fragments of marine diatoms in the clay.

The following were elected members :—

Benjamin R. Smith, Rev. Wayland Hoyt, Wm. Thomson, M.D., H. W. Stelwagon, M. D., John Struthers, D. G. Brinton, M. D., Thomas H. Fenton, M. D., and Miss Helen Abbott.

The following were elected correspondents :—

Karl A. Zittel, of Munich ; Marquis de Gaston de Saporto, of Aix ; Quintino Sella, of Rome ; August Daubrie, of Paris ; and Albert Gaudry, of Paris.

The following was ordered to be printed :—